North Cheshire and Mersey
NHS Foundation Trust

Eye drops for your child's eye test: Atropine

Orthoptic Department

Information for patients and carers

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Caring for you

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Why does my child need these eye drops?

Your child has an appointment at the children's eye clinic.

For some eye tests we need to make the pupil bigger. The pupil is the black circle in the centre of the eye.

Atropine eye drops make the pupil bigger and help us to:

- stop the eyes focusing for a short time
- carry out measurements
- look at the back of your child's eyes

These drops should only be used at home if your child's orthoptist has asked you to. An orthoptist is a specialist who checks eyesight and eye movements.

Important

Do not use if your child has been allergic to eye drops before. Call us on 01925 662845 before using them.

If your child sees a doctor or dentist in the next 2 weeks, tell them about the atropine drops. Your child's pupils may still be bigger than usual.

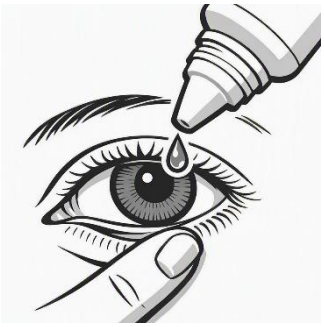
About the eye drops

The medicine used is 1% atropine eye drops. They will wear off slowly over 14 days.

You should seek medical advice if the effects last for longer than 14 days.

How to put the drops in

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Ask your child to sit or lie down.
3. Tilt their head back.
4. Take the cap off the bottle when you are ready.
5. Gently pull down the lower eyelid to make a small pocket.
6. Put 1 drop into the pocket between the eyelid and the eye.
7. Do not let the bottle tip touch the eye, skin or lashes.
8. Use a clean tissue to wipe away extra liquid.

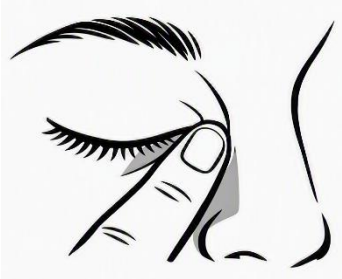


9. Ask your child to close their eyes.

10. Gently press the inner corner of each eye for 1 to 2 minutes. This helps stop the medicine going into the nose and throat.

11. Do the same for the other eye.

12. Wash and dry your hands again.



On the day of your appointment

At home:

- put 1 drop into each eye 30 to 60 minutes before the appointment
- watch your child for about 45 minutes after the drops
- they may find reading and close work difficult after having the drops
- bring sunglasses or a cap in case bright light hurts your child's eyes

Please tell the orthoptist when you arrive if you could not put the drops in.

Possible side effects

Your child may have:

- sore eyes for a short time
- an allergic reaction
- warm, red or dry skin
- dry mouth
- fast heat rate
- a high temperature
- problems weeing or having a poo
- problems with balance for a short time

Tell the clinic team straight away if your child has any of these problems.

Important advice

Do:

- ask for advice if your child is allergic to eye drops
- wash your hands before and after using the drops
- keep all medicines where children cannot reach them
- throw away the eye drop bottle safely
- check the expiry date before using the drops

Do not:

- use more than 1 drop in each eye
- share the drops with anyone
- use drops that were not given to your child

Contact us

For allergy advice before using the drops call 01925 662485.

Orthoptic Department
Daresbury Wing
Lovely Lane
Warrington
WA5 1QG

Phone: 01925 662772

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